

Implementing a biosecurity program at a large university.

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Office of Biosafety – Department of Health, Safety and Environment

Challenges...



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“Change”?



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The University of BC

- > 450 hectare campus (>1000 acres) surrounded by 1763 hectares of natural temperate forest.
- > 39,000 FTE students
 - ◆ Includes > 6200 Graduate students
- Largest single site employer in BC
 - ◆ 2nd largest employer in BC with > 16,000 FTE employees



The University of BC

- 4 Faculties – Science, Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmaceutical Sciences
- 66 Departments
- 79 Buildings
- >3200 rooms
- >125,000 sq. m. (> 1,340,000 sq. ft.)



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Access Control (BMBL Appendix F)

- Separate from public areas
- Should be locked at all times
- All entries recorded
- Only workers required be allowed access
- Access for students etc. limited to when reg. Employees present
- Freezers, refrigerators etc. to be locked when unattended



Access Control (current situation)

- UBC has over 30,000 access points on campus alone
- Using key access
- Cost to change to keycard ~ \$25 – \$50,000/bldg.
 - ◆ (\$2 – 4 million total cost)
- Offsite Level 3 facilities use keycard access
- Centre for Excellence in HIV offsite has keycard with PIN
- Locked freezers etc. - ??



Access Control



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Who is in the lab? (BMBL Appendix F)

- All workers should be known to facility administrators, lab. Directors. Background checks/security clearances may be appropriate
- All workers (including students, visitors etc.) should wear visible ID Badges
- Guests should be issued ID Badges and escorted.



Who is in the lab? (current situation)

- With ~ 3500 staff, 1000 Faculty, & 2400 Grad students – difficult to know all and have background checks
- ID badges great idea but may be a logistical nightmare
- Currently there is not enough staff to issue visitor badges and escort individuals



Know what is being brought into the lab? (BMBL Appendix F)

- All packages screened
- Packages containing specimens, bacterial or virus isolates, or toxins should be opened in a BSC



Know what is being brought into the lab? (current situation)

- No central receiving area to allow for screening
- Pretty good at having packages opened in BSC's



Know what is being removed from the lab? (current situation)

■ ?????



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Things we are doing...

■ Biosafety Project Approval Form

- ◆ Procedures involved
- ◆ Location of where materials are to be used and stored
- ◆ Registration of individuals working with biohazardous materials
- ◆ Disposal procedures

So where do we need improvement?

- Change in the attitude of everyone in regard to Biosecurity.
- Need to have a better appreciation of what is being worked with and the hazard if it were to be removed from the research environment.
- Better Access Control

